QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Whether Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon is an official or a non-official.

1. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon, B. A., is considered by the Government as an official or non-official, and

(b) whether he is not appointed as a non-official memebr on committees appointed by the Government?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Official. (b) No.

The principle followed in inviting Non-Official members to State functions.

2. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government has begun to follow any principle or definite policy in inviting non-official members of the Legislative Council and other non-officials in the State to Government or State functions, and if so,

(b) what is the rule, principle or policy now adopted;

(c) the grade or class of officials with whom the non-official members of the Legislative Council are grouped for the above mentioned purposes;

(d) whether the rule, principle or policy now adopted makes any distinction as to caste or creed;

(e) how many caste-Hindus, non-caste Hindus, Christians, Muhammadans and Jews are included in the Darbar List;

(f) how many non-Cochinites are included in the Darbar List;

(g) whether Cochinites are invited in preference to non-Cochinites?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—

(a) The answer is the same as that furnished to question No. 327 of the Legislative Session of the Council.

(b) Vide answer to (a).

(c) The Government have not felt the necessity for such grouping.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Vide answer to (a).

(f) Vide answer to (e).

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(g) There is no question of preference here. Amongst the invited guests, non-Cochinites also will be found.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The answer given to question No. 327 of the legislative session of the Council says that there is no rule, nor principle, nor policy in inviting non-official members to general functions. For question 2, (d), "whether the rule, principle or policy, now adopted, makes any distinction as to caste or creed," the answer is in the negative. And this shows that there is *some* policy or rule or principle. I desire to know what is that rule, principle or policy.

President.—Please look into the answers given on the last occasion. What is the question on the last occasion to which reference has been made?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have not got the Council Reports here.

President.—Have you got the number of the question?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Yes, Sir.—327.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—"Will the Government be pleased to state whether any principle or definite policy is being followed by the Government in inviting non-official members of the Legislative Council and other non-officials in the State to Government or State functions; and if so, what is the principle or policy followed, and whether any distinction is being made between those residing in towns like Ernakulam and other parts of the State, and also whether distinctions of caste or creed are being observed"?

The answer is that "there is no hard and fast rule on the subject. Government exercise their discretionary powers in such matters."

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I had put some supplementary questions also. They may also be read.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No supplementary questions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*Yes.* They have been published in the Council Reports, I have sent a chit to the Library for the Reports.

President.—But will you refer to the report where these supplementary questions have been put and answered?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The supplementary question put was: "My question has not been answered. I understand there is no hard and fast rule. My question is not whether there is any rule but whether there is any definite principle or policy." Mr. Damodara Menon answered. "It is not possible to have any definite principle or policy in a matter like this." Next, the question was put, "Am I to understand from the answer that no definite principle or policy is being fol-

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lowed even with regard to caste and creed ? " The answer was — "Caste and creed don't come in at all". Mr. Mathew next said, "I have put a question which refers to caste and creed, and I wait for an answer". It was stated in reply " The question of caste and creed does not come in." Mr. Mathew next stated " There have been complaints that invitations have not been sent to some prominent men, because they belonged to certain castes." The Member for the Government put in " They may take action and complain to the Government." The Member for Kunnamkulam asked again " Is there no definite policy followed in this matter? Am I to understand that there is no principle for the guidance of the officer ? The officers can at their sweet will refuse invitation to any caste." He got the following reply: " The Government say there is no policy. It is not possible to have any so far as the Government is concerned." The member again inquired " Is it impossible to lay down some principle or policy in using the discretionary power of the officer ?" The President then said " First of all, what is the principle on which they are to be invited ? There will be, sometimes, large numbers of people, you see, and sometimes, small. These are matters regarding which no rules can possibly be laid down." Mr. Mathew asked once more: " Is there no list of the members who are to be invited for the Darbar and other State functions ? Is it not possible to keep a list of names in the order of preference? Will the Government keep such a list in the future?". The Secretary to the Government answered " The list is prepared now and then. There is no standing list." The member's next question was "Is any principle or policy followed in revising the list ? " The offical member's reply was " It is not possible to have." Mr. Mathew then put in "Perhaps it is left to the sweet will of the officer to exclude any caste or invite any Tom, Dick or Harry he likes, whenever the list is revised." For that no answer was given.

President.—Have you come to the end of it ? Do Government state anywhere that a policy or principle has been laid down ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—For question No. 2 (d), whether the rule, principle or policy now adopted makes any distinction as to caste or creed, the answer is in the negative, which shows that there is some rule or policy. May I know what is the rule or policy ?

President.—That again is a discussion of the question.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know what is the difficulty that the Government have in following any principle or policy in this matter ?

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President.—I think Government might have found it difficult; otherwise, they might have laid down a policy or rule.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government take us into their confidence and tell us what the difficulty is ?

President.—It is no new announcement that the Government have always taken the non-official members into their confidence, and their conduct has been like that throughout.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I ask whether the Government cannot take us into confidence in this particular matter also. What is the difficulty that the Government have in following a policy in this matter?

President.—I do not think it is a matter in which we may lay down a policy or rule.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the difficulty in keeping a list ?

President.—We have got a list. Sometimes, the list is subjected to revision, and we are revising the list. Probably, your reference is to the Garden Party at the Residency.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know, Sir, whether you are speaking as President or Diwan?

President.—I am the Diwan-President. I told you all that on a previous occasion. In fact, these questions come before me for answer in my capacity as Diwan. I get the necessary materials. Your object is to get information. I am the Diwan-President, you see, and the President has a right to answer questions. You want information on certain points. Why should you want to shut out information if it comes from the Diwan? He may have better sources of information on many points.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Neither the President nor the Diwan nor the official block has helped us to get sufficient information. That is why I ask the question. We want satisfactory answers to all legitimate questions we put here from official members in the Council whether the questions are difficult for the Government to answer or not.

President.—You want to lay down a policy with reference to a matter. That is a matter with regard to which a policy cannot be laid down nor a rule. Of course, we act according to established conventions and according to precedents.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—In the pre-reformed Councils of British India, the officers of Government used to take actual part in the discussion and used to answer non-official members.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I suppose that has been reformed.

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President.—Never mind. Let us follow what is done in Mysore, in Pudukkotta, and in Travancore. I don't know, why I should be shut out, and why I should sit here for nothing at all. You better put your supplementary questions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We want the President in the Council.

President.—But, along with the President, there is also the Diwan. There is that dual capacity in me.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Hear, Hear.

The number of people in Government service on Rs. 25 and above.

3. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of people in Government service drawing Rs. 25 and above;

(b) how many of them are caste-Hindus, non-caste Hindus, Christians, Muhammadans and Jews; and

(c) how many of them are from the villages included in the Kunnamkulam Constituency?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—

1,707

(b)	Caste-Hindus	1,344
	Non-caste Hindus	48
	Christians	296
	Muhammadans	18
	Jews	1

(c) 52, so far as it could be ascertained.

List of officers confirmed in Government service after the last Budget Session.

4. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of officers with their full names, salaries and the names of the departments to which they belong, who had been confirmed in the Government service, after the budget session of the Legislative Council, when a promise was held out that a Retrenchment Committee would be appointed by the Government?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The list is placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know, through you, Sir, when the Special Finance Committee was considering retrenchments, what was the necessity to confirm all these officers —a long list—before the deliberations of the Committee have been concluded?

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